

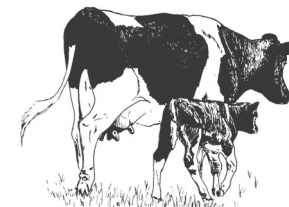
Cumberland County



2003-2004 COUNTY PROFILE OF MAINE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Maine's agricultural future is inextricably linked to its ability to continue to build strong, long-lasting connections between farmers and the communities they serve. To help all citizens better understand how agriculture is connected to every aspect of life in Maine, this county profile provides citizens, community planners and natural resource conservation groups important facts about farmers, farms, farmland and agricultural enterprises in Cumberland County.

Farmers in Cumberland County



	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Farming as Principal Occupation	208	207	197	187	215
Male Operators (N)	NA	447	456	361	358
Female Operators (N)	NA	44	51	79	97
Average Age	54	52	52	55	57

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

Statewide, farming has a unique connection to the history of Maine. Farmers are stewards of the land; well-managed farmland protects natural resources and creates beautiful open space. Many of Maine's first settlers were farmers whose fields, farmhouses and barns shaped Maine's historic landscape. Today, Maine's agricultural producers and processors annually contribute over 1.2 billion dollars to Maine's economy and employ 65,000 Maine people!

County Farmland

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Number of farms	398	491	507	440	455
Total Acres (A)	63,753	60,166	62,096	53,893	49,829
Average Farm Size (A)	160	123	122	122	110
Total Cropland (A)	29,580	29,057	28,948	23,860	25,543
Total Pasture (A)	NA	10,835	10,890	8,475	8,686
Total Orchard (A)	769	389	350	346	292
Total Berry (A)	233	316	310	NA	NA
Total Hay (A)	15,871	16,188	17,850	14,524	17,075
Total Woodland (A)	25,337	25,323	26,281	24,771	19,278

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

Land in farms decreased 8 percent from 53,893 acres in 1992 to 49,892 acres in 1997.

Agencies and Organizations Assisting Farmers

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES

28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
207-287-3871

"get real. get maine!"

a promotional branding campaign, to increase public awareness of Maine products, **Division of Market and Production Development, 287-3491**

Farmland Protection Program, 287-7520

Ag Business Planning Assistance

- **Farms for the Future**, administered jointly with Coastal Enterprises Inc., provides farmers grants to develop and implement business plans. **Dept. 287-7520 and 287-7620, CEI 772-5356**
- **NxLevel Business Planning**, coordinated by NRCS Heart of Maine Resource Conservation and Development Council, 368-4433
- **Food and Farms Resource Guide**—*Handbook for Maine Agricultural Businesses* provides farmers information on various agricultural subjects and programs, **287-3491**

Ag Business Loans and Grants

- Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund
- Potato Marketing Improvement Fund
- Agricultural Development Grant
- Agricultural Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Agricultural Water Source Development Cost Share Program

MAINE FARM BUREAU

A non-governmental, voluntary organization whose mission it is to analyze economic and public problems surrounding agriculture in Maine. Augusta, **622-4111**

MAINE FARM CREDIT

Specializes in lending to Maine's agricultural, fishing and forest products industries. Aroostook Regional Office, Presque Isle, **764-6431**; or Southern Regional Office, Auburn, **784-0193**

MAINE FARMLAND TRUST

A membership-based, non-profit organization working in the public's interest to protect Maine's precious farmland resources. Bucksport, **469-6465**

MAINE FARMLINK

A farm transfer program that connects farmers seeking farmland with retiring Maine farmers and farm owners who wish to see their agricultural lands remain active. Currently there are 35 prospective sellers and 67 prospective buyers statewide with 21 prospects in Cumberland County. Freedom, **382-3255**

MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION (MOFGA)

Developed from a loose affiliation of farmers and gardeners committed to growing healthy, chemical free food, to an internationally recognized advocate for food production that enhances and protects the ecological as well as economic vitality of rural communities. Unity, **568-4142**

MAINE WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL NETWORK

A collaborative effort of farmers, agriculture and related non-profit, for profit and governmental agencies seeking to help women and other underserved individuals find the skills necessary to begin or continue farming profitably. Lisbon Falls, **800-287-1458**

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Assists farmers, landowners and communities with conserving and protecting natural resources. Each District works in partnership with the **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency** and other federal, state and local agencies, including the **NRCS-Resource Conservation and Development Council**. Scarborough, **883-0159**

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A major educational outreach program of the University of Maine, with offices statewide. Portland, **800-287-1471** or statewide **800-287-0274**

Web Links

United States Department of Agriculture
www.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
www.maine.gov/argiculture/

"get real. get maine!"
www.getrealmaine.com

Maine State Web Portal
www.maine.gov

Maine Food and Farms Resource Guide
www.getrealmaine.com/connect/

References

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
Maine Revenue Service



November
2003

Unique to Cumberland County

- There are 16 granges in Cumberland County. **County Grange**, Adrian Griffin, Master, 839-4138
- County Chapter, **Maine Farm Bureau**, President, Clayton Haskell, Windham – 892-5396
- Farm Fresh Connection**, new program of the Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society, which is linking the food service programs of Bates and Bowdoin Colleges with farmers in the area.
- Land Trust Organizations:** *Maine Coast Heritage Trust* (founded in 1970), 729-7366; *Brunswick Topsham Land Trust* (1985), 729-7694; *Cape Elizabeth Land Trust* (1985), 767-6054; *Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust, Inc.* (1987), 829-3645; *Falmouth Conservation Trust* (1980), 878-2558; *Freeport Conservation Trust* (1977), 865-0145; *Friends of Merrymeeting Bay* (1975), 666-3372; *Gorham-Sebago Lake Regional Land Trust* (1986), 892-3791; *Harpswell Heritage Land Trust* (1983), 729-4029; *Loon Echo Land Trust* (1987), 647-4352; *New Gloucester Land Preservation Trust* (1988), 926-4391; *North Yarmouth Land Trust* (1987), 829-6131; *Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay* (1982), 772-9070; *Yarmouth Land Trust* (1989), 846-5728; *The Trust for Public Land* (1972), 772-7424; *Pownal Land Trust* (1989), 688-4965; *Pemaquid Watershed Association* (1966), 563-2196; *Scarborough Land Conservation Trust* (1977), 883-4909; *South Portland Land Trust* (1987), 767-0908
- The **State Historic Preservation Office** (287-2132) and **Maine Preservation** (775-7737) will have information regarding the county’s agriculturally related places of historic and cultural significance

Prime Soils in Cumberland County

PRIME FARMLAND

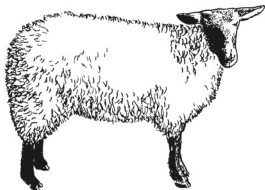
The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while using acceptable farming methods. Prime Farmland produces the highest yields and requires minimal amounts of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Prime Farmland is a limited strategic resource. No more of it is being created.

41,365 acres (estimated)

SOILS OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide significance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce a high yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable.

163,535 (estimated)



Food, Farms* and Fairs in Cumberland County

- 71 Farmstands/Nurseries/Greenhouses open to the public
- 9 Farmers’ Markets serving multiple communities
- 4 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms contract directly with their customers who pay a fixed price in advance for fresh produce throughout the season
- 13 Farms offer Pick Your Own fruits and vegetables
- 30 Farms host on farm events and activities, such as, pumpkin hunts, animal viewing, hayrides and school programs
- 1 Agricultural fair (Cumberland Fair) drew up to 51,257 people to Cumberland County in 2002

** Some farms may be counted in multiple categories. Not all farm activities and retail services are listed here.*

Annual Statewide Events and Programs in 2003

- 8 Cumberland County farms opened their sugarhouses for Maine Maple Sunday, held annually on the 4th Sunday in March.
- 7 Cumberland County farms welcomed the public on Open Farm Day, held on the 4th Sunday in July.
- 35 Cumberland County restaurants participated in Maine Menus Month in October, making special efforts to feature Maine grown, raised or harvested ingredients on their menus.

Many farmers participated in Great Maine Apple Day at Highmoor Farm in early November to celebrate Maine’s apple harvest.
- 14 Cumberland County farmers and seniors participated in Maine Senior FarmShare, a program funded by the USDA, which provides locally grown produce to low-income seniors. Statewide, 185 farmers benefited from nearly \$900,000 and additional seniors received fresh produce through food pantries and community meal sites.



In Cumberland County, the average per farm market value of agricultural products sold increased 5 percent from \$36,201 in 1992 to \$38,061 in 1997. Statewide market research in 2002 showed that 89 percent surveyed believe that buying locally grown food helps the state’s economy.

Cumberland County Agricultural Sales

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
All crops	\$3,624,000	\$4,821,000	\$4,638,000	\$9,482,000	\$11,164,000
Livestock/poultry and their products	\$12,292,000	\$13,082,000	\$10,241,000	\$6,446,000	\$6,154,000
Nursery and greenhouse products	\$849,000	\$1,770,000	\$1,575,000	\$6,287,000	\$7,981,000
Fruits, nuts and berries	NA	\$679,000	\$847,000	\$962,000	\$725,000

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

Farmland Protected in Cumberland County

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

- 1,589 acres (11 farms) have been protected by 7 nonprofit organizations
- 183 acres (one farm) protected through the Land for Maine’s Future Program and the USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
- Several other state and federally funded farmland protection projects are pending

TEMPORARILY PROTECTED

Maine Dept. of Agriculture

- 12 acres protected through Farms for the Future (5 years)

USDA Farm Service Agency

- 230 acres protected through Debt for Nature (50 years)

Enrolled in Farm and Open Space Tax Program

- 8,075 acres farmland in 2002 — 4,459 acres cropland plus 3,616 acres woodland
- 5,251 acres open space in 2001

Enrolled in Tree Growth Tax Program

- 88,784 acres in 2001